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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 9 (d)

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION: HUMAN RIGHTS, MASS EXODUSES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Written statement submitted by the World Federation of Democratic Youth, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[28 February 1997]

GE.97-10904 (E)

1. During the period 10-17 December 1996, WFDY, together with other youth organizations and groups, organized the First International Peace Caravan to the Sudan. The Caravan, which brought 50 young delegates from all over the world together with a large number of women and youth representing the pro-democracy forces of the north of the Sudan, visited the southern war-torn parts of the country. The people of this area have been suffering the scourge of a devastating civil war since 1983, yet they are largely forgotten by the international community. Besides advocating an overall culture of peace and tolerance among the Sudanese people and expressing solidarity with the victims of war and gross violations of fundamental rights, the Caravan also aimed at promoting broader respect for fundamental rights as enshrined in the body of international human rights law.

2. Through direct discussion with the war-affected people, delegates were able to collect first-hand evidence of fundamental rights violations, in particular the right to life, in the visited areas. At rallies and public meetings, a number of subjects were addressed including the right to self-determinations, religious intolerance, economic, social and cultural rights, the eruption of slavery as a by-product of war, gender equality, women's rights, as well as youth and child rights.

3. The Caravan visited the areas of Narus, Natinga, New Kush-Heman and other areas in eastern Equatoria. All these areas are zones of military operations under the administration of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). Visits were also organized to refugee and orphans' camps and to prisoner of war camps. During its stay in southern Sudan, the Caravan witnessed the indiscriminate repeated bombardment of civilian targets by government military forces. On 14 December 1996, three rockets launched by the government air force were exploded close to the site where delegates were gathered for a peace rally organized in Natinga. The bombardment caused severe damage to properties and the environment.

4. The Caravan noted with great concern the plight of the displaced and indigenous peoples of the areas visited. The difficult conditions are the direct result of the ongoing civil war in their homeland and the military siege imposed on them by the Government. Delegates were deeply shocked at the deplorable living conditions in these areas, especially with regard to security and safety, sufficient food, potable water supply, health and educational services. In short, the people of these areas are lacking the most basic necessities of a dignified life which were guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

5. The SPLM has established civil administration units to organize the daily life of the people in areas under its control. However, the system is not satisfactory and falls short of meeting the growing needs of the people. The SPLM was encouraged to take more measures for the improvement of its administrative system and ensure broader respect and promotion of fundamental rights. Humanitarian organizations and the international community at large

were called upon to extend all possible assistance in order to consolidate these efforts. The Caravan commended the SPLM for its observance of the Geneva Convention in its treatment of prisoners of war. The government army reportedly does not keep any prisoners of war.

6. Conditions of people who live in the Government-controlled areas in southern Sudan were reportedly more deplorable due to the Government's atrocities. Native people of the areas are exposed to massive abuses of fundamental rights including extrajudicial killings, rape, destruction and looting of properties, displacement and the abduction of women and children for slavery by the government army and paramilitary forces. Areas affected by the growing phenomenon of slavery in the Sudan are largely in northern Bar el-Ghazal and Upper Nile which are the regions adjacent to the northern parts of the country.

7. The situation is further aggravated by hindrances put by the Government before international relief and humanitarian organizations including the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations. Humanitarian organizations require Government clearance before assuming relief operations. The Government usually issues clearances on a selective basis, after deliberately prolonged procedures, with priority given to Islamic-oriented organizations. On some occasions the United Nations-sponsored relief operation (Operation Life Line Sudan) has faced these sorts of hindrances (November, December 1995).

8. The Caravan was deeply concerned with the situation of women, children and youth the majority of whom do not know the meaning of peace during their lifetime. They are facing a plethora of acute difficulties especially in refugee camps such as the UNHCR-run Kakuma refugee camp which lacks proper medical services. Refugees used to walk long distance in search of medicine and other necessities. The Caravan resolved to launch a health brigade in order to help ease the situation. Recommendations were also made to set up a national youth structure to coordinate efforts for the improvement of the conditions of the most vulnerable segments of society. In order to empower these target groups, there is an urgent need for the consolidation of civil society structures and initiatives in the area.

9. The Caravan concluded that, despite the fact that the legacy of both the military and democratic rules in the Sudan is the decimation of social life the brutal repression of fundamental rights, the castration of democratic institutions and the imposition of pervasive, grinding and heinous poverty on the Sudanese masses, the situation in southern Sudan and other extremely underdeveloped areas such as the Nuba Mountains and the Beja Areas (eastern Sudan) is the worst and lacks safety and security. The present Government has surpassed all its predecessors in fostering these problems. The Government's Islamization and Arabization orientations added new dimensions to the conflict in a volatile multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious country.

10. During a lengthy dialogue initiated between pro-democracy social and political groups from the south and north of the Sudan, the Caravan felt that to put an end to the suffering of the people in the war-affected regions of the Sudan, the civil conflict should come to a halt through democratic means which guarantee peaceful coexistence between the diverse races and cultures of

the country. A sustainable solution to the current crisis should concretely address the issue of the right to self-determination for the people of southern Sudan and the Nuba Mountains.

Recommendations

11. The Government of the Sudan should abide by its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights treaties. It should also observe international humanitarian law in the treatment of civilians under conditions of armed conflicts.

12. The Government should put an immediate end to the civil war in the country and embark on a sincere dialogue to find a peaceful solution to the country's acute political crisis and guarantee the right to self-determination for the people of southern Sudan and the Nuba Mountains.

13. It should end all sorts of fundamental rights violations in the war-affected zones as well as the growing phenomenon of slavery and forced conscription of youth and children.

14. We call on the international community to exercise all possible pressure on the Government of the Sudan to respect its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and the international body of human rights law to which the Sudan is a party. We also call upon the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations to extend all possible moral and material help and assistance to the people in the war-affected areas in the Sudan, in particular the Nuba Mountains and the Beja areas in eastern Sudan.

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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Written statement submitted by the World Federation of Democratic Youth, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[28 February 1997]

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GE.97-10907 (E)

1. The World Federation of Democratic Youth draws the attention of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights to the magnitude and scale of violence and fundamental rights violations in the urban centres of Sindh, the southern province of Pakistan. Fundamental rights conditions in this part of the world have been very deplorable during recent years, yet the international community paid little attention. The situation is especially dire in the main areas inhabited by Mohajirs (Muslims who migrated from minority provinces of India after the partition of the subcontinent into present Pakistan and India).

2. The World Federation of Democratic Youth notes that the major perpetrators of fundamental rights violations are the Pakistani law enforcement agencies and other militant groups largely believed to be sponsored by the Government, as the "Haqiqi" group. Reliable evidence indicated that the main victims of violence and fundamental rights violations are Mohajirs, in particular those who are active members or sympathizers of the Mohajir Quomi Movement-MQM, the political party led by Mr. Altaf Hussain.

3. In his report before this Commission (E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.2), the Special Rapporteur on torture devoted a whole section to the gruesome situation of fundamental rights in Karachi (Pakistan's main sea gate and capital of Sindh province). He estimated that over 1,800 people were killed in Karachi in 1995 alone in politically motivated murders. Although the rate of massive killings has decreased during 1996, the situation remains tense and may deteriorate anytime. The Special Rapporteur has also documented detailed accounts of gross violations of fundamental rights in Pakistan.

4. Areas of Sindh inhabited by Mohajirs such as Karachi, Sukkur, Hyderabad, Nawabashah, Mirpur and Khas have been witnessing serious violations of fundamental rights. A concerted campaign of harassment, torture and physical elimination was introduced on 19 June 1992 when the Government deployed six divisions of the Pakistani army in the Sindh region, including major metropolitan areas such as Karachi, in what is known as "Army Operation Clean-Up". In November 1994, the army withdrew and was replaced by a paramilitary force known as rangers. These paramilitary forces are under the direct supervision of the Federal Ministry of Defence.

5. However, the World Federation of Democratic Youth is concerned that the military operation is directed against a civilian population in densely populated areas. Since June 1992, ruthless atrocities have been perpetrated against civilians, especially Mohajirs, under the pretext of misleading disguises such as "combating terrorism", "counter-insurgency", etc. The security forces usually cordon off residential areas to harass and arrest people. Those identified as active members of the MQM, and sometimes their relatives or family members, are arrested, tortured or extrajudicially executed, in many cases within a few days of their arrest.

6. The second main cause of violence in Sindh is the sectarian activities of some violent groups widely believed to be armed by the Government such as the Haqiqi, which was reported to be responsible for some of the worst atrocities committed against members of the MQM. Acting with the Government's protection, Haqiqi has systematically harassed, tortured and eliminated members of MQM. In some isolated cases, other sectarian and religious

groups such as Sipah-e-Sahaba and the Tehrik-Jafria were held responsible for the escalation of violence in Karachi by firing at each others' religious sites, etc. The Government reportedly favours Sunni Muslims over other sects.

7. With the context of "Army Operation Clean-Up", it was estimated that at least 1 million Mohajirs were rendered destitute because their economic viability has been eliminated by the security forces. This paralysis occurs as Mohajirs are in hiding or are being detained as "acknowledged" or "unacknowledged" prisoners of the security forces. Since 1992, more than 15,000 Mohajir men, women and youth have been tortured, extrajudicially killed or maimed for life due to excessive use of force by the law enforcement forces and Government-sponsored armed groups. Large numbers of Mohajir women and girls were reportedly raped by the security forces and their support groups.

8. The list of persons unlawfully killed is quite long. One such incident took place in Karachi on 9 December 1995, when the security forces brutally tortured and extrajudicially executed Mr. Nasir Hussain (66) and his son Arif Hussain (28) within one week of their arrest. Their obvious crime was being the elder brother and the nephew of Mr. Altaf Hussain, exiled leader of the MQM who has lived in London since 1992. The tragic killing of Mr. Murtaza Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's Party (Shaheed Bhutto Group), by identified members of the security forces on 29 September 1996 is further evidence of the terrorizing state of violence unleashed by the Pakistani security forces on political opponents.

9. On 5 November 1996, the President of Pakistan dissolved the Government of Ms. Benazir Bhutto. In his address the President said that: "... during the last three years, thousands of people in Karachi and other parts of Pakistan have been deprived of their right to life ... no meaningful steps have been taken to put an end to the crime of extrajudicial killings which is an evil abhorrent to our Islamic faith and all canons of civilized government". Such recognition of the Government's responsibility for massive violations of fundamental rights by the head of State should be the first step towards acceptable observance and respect for fundamental rights. However, despite the President's denouncement, extrajudicial killings continued to take place in Karachi. No tangible measures to end violence and fundamental rights violations in Karachi were taken by the concerned authorities since the dismissal of the government of Ms. Bhutto.

10. The obligations under international law which Pakistan is bound to respect are contained in the international instruments to which it has adhered. First and foremost, as a member of the United Nations, Pakistan is bound by its Charter - it is obliged to respect fundamental rights and freedoms of all people within its territory. Furthermore, we strongly urge the Government of Pakistan to adhere to the two main documents of international human rights law, namely the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and their Optional Protocols, which are yet to be ratified by Pakistan. It should also adhere to the International Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

11. Former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in his report entitled "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/272-S/24111), identified the protection of human

rights as an important element of peace, security and economic well-being. The 1993 World Conference on Human Rights concluded that the protection and promotion of human rights is a legitimate concern of the international community. Accordingly, we urge the international community to ensure that the Pakistani authorities take effective measures to:

(a) Put an immediate end to all sorts of political violence in the urban centres of Sindh by addressing the root causes which led to the present situation and repeal all laws and practices which sanction the commission of human rights violations;

(b) Apply international human rights law in its territory, compensate the victims and try those found responsible for excessive use of force, violence and fundamental rights violations before competent and impartial courts of justice;

(c) Take immediate steps to establish a sincere dialogue with the aggrieved parties with a clear vision to reach a sustainable and peaceful political solution to the crisis in urban Sindh in order to ameliorate the situation of fundamental rights.

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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Written statement submitted by the World Federation of Democratic Youth, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[28 February 1997]

1. Fundamental human rights violations, including serious violations of the right to life, continue unabated in the remote and isolated Nuba Mountain area of the Sudan, often without any coverage or reporting by external reporters or human rights groups. Major perpetrators of the human rights violations are the regular army and Government-backed militia such as the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) and the Mujahidin. Although WFDY has received a large number of reliable testimonies on fundamental rights violations, well-documented evidence of such violations was collected by a WFDY delegation from people in the following villages:

(a) Kuda area. On 23 March 1996, the government military and paramilitary forces burned the season's harvest (sorghum, sesame, groundnuts and other produce). Agriculture is the only source of income and living for the people of this area. The Government's act rendered the people destitute and in desperate need of external help and assistance;

(b) Tiri area. The government forces stormed the only church in the area, stole 13 stools and other belongings and destroyed the pictures and other religious symbols. Bullet marks were identified in the church's walls. Such acts also have racist manifestations: on other occasions government military forces have burned down mosques as well as churches, reportedly shouting racist slogans against the black people of the area;

(c) Tandri and Tabaldia areas. The government forces have burned down all buildings and belongings. Government forces usually enter the target area to steal valuables and then burn down buildings. Other belongings such as agricultural produce are said to be destroyed in toto. WFDY believes that the reason behind this deliberate policy is to forcibly displace inhabitants of the Nuba Mountains in order to replace them with other ethnic groups and to resettle the Nuba in other parts of the country according to government plans (usually in semi-desert areas). Many cases of mass killings and death of civilians were reported, whether through indiscriminate military operations, extrajudicial executions or due to war-related reasons. Many villages were totally uprooted or deserted by the original inhabitants.

Rape

2. Many cases of rape of young women and girls were reported to the delegation. The number of rape cases was very high in 1995. After mounting external pressure on the Government to improve its human rights record, fewer rape cases were reported in 1996. Rape is especially rampant in the areas of Mendi, Rabka and El Hamra where the government forces have a noticeable regular presence. Rape was usually committed by several men who, without exception, were members of the government military forces or paramilitary militia. Perpetrators of this heinous crime are escorted free with impunity.

Forced labour

3. Throughout 1996, forced labour was largely practised by the government army, especially in the areas of Mendi, Rabka, El Hamra and El Ehimir. Government forces usually herd tens of young men and women on a daily basis to the military camps where they are forced to perform support and domestic services for the army. By the end of the day, soldiers usually keep some

young women to spend the night at the military camps for sexual comfort while the rest are released without payment or compensation. On many occasions soldiers carry young people with them to other locations in the north to perform domestic services for households.

El Rahmania camp

4. In its deliberate policy to change the demographic status of the Nuba Mountains, the Government established El Rahmania camp in 1992. The camp is located about 10 km to the north of Tallodi, towards Abu Giba and Mendi. Because of the tight security measures surrounding this camp, no detailed information about the conditions inside it is available. WFDY believes that the camp is meant to accommodate the deliberately displaced people as a first step to transferring them to other parts of the country. People who were forcibly removed from their villages in other parts of the Nuba Mountains are detained in this camp for about three months for screening and indoctrination. After this period they are transferred to peace camps or peace villages under the control of the Government where small quotas of food, etc. are distributed by the Government-controlled Islamic relief agencies. In the peace camps people are forced to change their religious allegiance. The method is simple: food and other necessities are distributed to those who declare Islam as their religion and attend daily prayers, which is the usual time for food distribution. Adults as well as children are given new Islamic names and forced to practise Islamic rituals.

Forced conscription of children

5. Children of all ages, especially those at the secondary-school level, are forced to undergo military training and Islamic indoctrination before entering schools. Military training, which ranges from three months to six months, is conducted in the war zones to ensure speedy dispatch of these hastily trained recruits to the battlefields. The period can be extended indefinitely. Some students never returned to school again and instead became soldiers for the rest of their lives. The rate of casualties among these recruits is very high due to the harsh training conditions and the lack of medical care.

6. WFDY calls on the Government of the Sudan to:

(a) Put an immediate end to all violations of fundamental rights in the Nuba Mountains, in particular the right to life, and apply international standards in the treatment of civilians in the war zones. It should also stop the forcible transfer of people from their areas;

(b) Open the Nuba Mountain areas to external relief operations and to human rights monitoring, including visits by officials of the United Nations.

7. We call on the United Nations and the international community at large to extend all possible help and assistance to the people of the Nuba Mountains. The United Nations should take all necessary measures to ensure that this area is covered by Operation Life Line Sudan. There is urgent need for health-care facilities, medical doctors and midwives, as well as teachers and educational and training materials.

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ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Written statement submitted by the International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples and the American Association of Jurists, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[12 March 1997]

1. According to the doctrine of national security, a non-conventional undeclared war is in progress in Colombia between the Government and the democratic and alternative political and social movements.

2. The "enemies of public order" are not only the rebel groups but also the civilian population which is regarded as possibly constituting the social and political base for those groups. The war is therefore total in political, economic, military and psychological terms and is evolving as the social resistance and opposition movements grow.

3. A striking feature of the doctrine of national security is the capacity of the military to adapt to this total war. One aspect of this response is the creation of their own army and a non-conventional force of soldiers and war specialists, or what is usually known as paramilitary bodies. These

"civilian soldiers" devote themselves to a policy of systematic violence against workers and peasants, teachers, political and trade union leaders, community and indigenous leaders and priests who defend human rights, in short against all those who in some form or another do not support the groups (economic, political or military) holding the power.

4. This concept of non-conventional war leads to acts of extermination against various social groups, perpetrated by hired assassins from the armed forces and civilians paid by landowners and drug traffickers or directly from army funds.

5. The systematic violence has also been used to dispossess small peasants and speed up the process of land concentration. This process began to take shape with the transformation of arable land into pastures and the incorporation of small farms into large estates. This has brought about a "redistribution" of land ownership, from the small plot to vast properties in the hands of a few merchants, industrialists, politicians and retired military personnel, which has already led to the enforced uprooting of some 1 million persons.

6. Colombia's "dirty war" thus conforms to a planned design for combating the popular and democratic sectors and serves the interests of the economic, political and military groups in power. The methods of the dirty war are:

(a) Selective assassination of popular leaders and activists;

(b) Arbitrary arrests and disappearances with the connivance of regional and local public prosecutors who provide the armed forces with blank arrest warrants on which the latter enter the names of their chosen victims. Anonymous witnesses give false evidence which contributes to giving an appearance of legality to the arbitrary arrests.

7. The armed forces/paramilitary relationship:

(a) "When General Farouk Yanine Díaz arrived in the region of Magdalena Medio in the early 1980s as commander of the XIV Brigade with its headquarters in Puerto Berrío, he tried to draw up a comprehensive anti-subversion strategy, involving the civilian population. This strategy seemed to be aimed at peacemaking, but it soon became a weapon, fuelled by the rage and despair generated among the inhabitants of the region by the guerrilla activities. Shielded by Decree No. 3398 promulgated in 1965, whereby military commanders were allowed to supply long-range weapons to peasants organized into groups which had been duly registered with the authorities, Yanine legally supported the so-called peasant self-defence groups. By this means the General was able to take vast areas of Magdalena Medio from the guerrillas and himself became a legend" (Síntesis, summary of the magazines Semana and Cambio 16, 2 December 1996). The success achieved by Yanine brought him promotion to Commander of the Second Army Division. This three-star general, whom some call "the man who pacified Magdalena Medio", has now been charged and is under arrest for his alleged participation in the massacre of Segovia on 11 November 1988 in which 43 persons were murdered;

(b) Colonel Hernando Navas Rubio, now demoted and confined to a military garrison, as an alleged participant in the Segovia massacre;

(c) One of the most dreaded paramilitary figures, who is serving a sentence for the murder of more than 700 persons, Alonso de Jesús Vaquero, alias "Vladimir", has informed against endless numbers of army officials and political bosses. In addition to the Segovia massacre, they are accused of the La Rochela massacre, inter alia, where magistrates and legal officials in Santander, investigating the disappearance of 19 tradesmen, were murdered;

(d) Colonel Carlos Alfonso Velásquez, second in command of the 17th Brigade in Urabá and Chief of General Staff, proved in a report to his superiors that there was official tolerance of the paramilitary movement (Alternativa magazine, No. 6, 15 February 1997), maintaining that the army should not commit itself to any extremes of violence because it would lose legitimacy. Referring to the Convivir peasant cooperatives set up by the Ministry of Defence (Decree 356/94 - Surveillance and Private Security Statute and 2535/93 - Regulations for weapons, ammunition and explosives), Colonel Velásquez says: "They would help to keep the peace in some areas of Colombia which have not experienced disturbances, but in regions like Urabá it is misguided and somewhat utopian to believe that they are going to remain sound and free from paramilitary infiltration. If the State is not able to control its own military and police, it will certainly not be able to control people who are not answerable to the State".

8. Impunity:

(a) Various army and police officers and non-commissioned officers are being investigated for their alleged responsibility in enforced disappearances, abductions, massacres, torture, extrajudicial executions and other crimes against humanity. Proceedings against them comprise 34 per cent of the total of 130 cases initiated (Alternativa, No. 6, 15 January 1997);

(b) According to a Human Rights Watch document published in November 1996, Las redes de asesinos de Colombia (Colombia's networks of murderers), an even more striking figure than the number of paramilitary leaders recognized as active in Colombia is the number of officers in the security forces implicated in massacres, assassinations and torture in complicity with the paramilitary, who continue in active service without interference;

(c) On 26 November 1996, the Supreme Council of the Judiciary transferred the case of General Farouk Yanine Díaz and other military personnel to military criminal justice. The decision was based on the fact that these persons were in active service in the Colombian army and that there was a causal link between the acts attributed to them and the military duties in which they were engaged (Alternativa, No. 6, 15 January 1997);

(d) The human rights report of the United States State Department (El Espectador, 31 January 1997) says of Colombia that the Samper administration took no action to check the increase in abuses committed by paramilitary groups, almost to the point of a policy of tacit acceptance. The report does recognize that the Public Prosecutor's Office has made progress

but expresses regret that paramilitary leaders such as the drug traffickers Carlos and Fidel Castaño and the emerald magnate Victor Carranza have remained out of reach of justice. With reference to the proceedings it goes on to say that although military leaders warmly supported the cases (being investigated by the Public Prosecutor) brought against the guerrilla leaders, they objected strongly to and in some cases tried to obstruct the course of proceedings against members of the armed forces and paramilitary personnel. The report calculates that impunity covers between 97 and 99.5 per cent of the cases and notes that all the foregoing calls in question the limited democracy and the rule of law in Colombia. As evidence of these violations and in defiance of the courts, the drug traffickers and paramilitary figures Fidel and Carlos Castaño, in a letter to the Ombudsman published in El Tiempo on 21 January 1997, state: "We are an anti-subversive organization with political, social and economic aims who carry out armed counterinsurgency activities; ... we do not claim to be a substitute for the State but to supplement its action in places and circumstances where its presence is insufficient or non-existent".

9. All the above reveals the links between the Colombian police and armed forces and their paramilitary groups.

10. The International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples and the American Association of Jurists (a) urge the international community and particularly the United States and the European Union immediately to suspend all military aid to Colombia, including training, services and arms deliveries; (b) urge the Colombian Government to suspend the military officers involved in crimes against humanity and to put an end to the association between the military and the paramilitary.